

Long-Term Air Transportation Study (LATS) Update

In 2005, the Governor signed into law Engrossed Substitute Senate Bill (ESSB) 5121, which authorizes a long-term air transportation planning study for general aviation and commercial airports statewide. The legislation is also known as the Washington State Long-Term Air Transportation Study (LATS). The purpose of LATS is to understand what capacity currently exists in aviation facilities and what will be needed to meet future demand for air transportation.

Phase II Currently Underway

WSDOT Aviation has recently launched into Phase II to inventory and evaluate current and future needs at Washington State's 140 public use airports. The following are the three phases of LATS:

PHASE I - WHAT WE HAVE

WSDOT completed an airport facility, passenger, air cargo and airspace inventory assessment in September 2006. The assessment covered existing conditions at Washington's 140 public-use airports.

PHASE II - WHAT WE NEED

Currently underway - WSDOT is completing an airport demand forecast and market analysis for the next 25 years. A passenger rail evaluation will also be conducted within this phase, but is funded separately. Delivery date is July 1, 2007.

PHASE III - HOW DO WE GET THERE?

A ten-member Governor appointed planning council will make recommendations on future statewide aviation needs. Delivery date is July 1, 2009.

Next Steps

Phase II findings will be released at the end of July 2007. At that time the findings of both Phases I and II will be presented to an Aviation Council appointed by the Governor, and will help to identify which airports will meet, exceed or fall short of adequately serving the anticipated future demand. Opportunities to learn more about the Phase II findings will occur later this spring.

Opportunities to Get Involved

Please visit the LATS Web page to see the latest revisions to our communication plan and learn how you can get involved: www.wsdot.wa.gov/aviation/LATS.htm.

For further information contact Nisha Marvel, WSDOT Aviation Communications, at 360-651-6310 or marveln@wsdot.wa.gov.